

News Release

PEOPLE - WEBER - FULOP

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February 5- April 25, 1993

ELISABETH WEBER-FULOP, 1883-1966

Paintings from the museum collection and locally owned work

An internationally acclaimed artist who spent the last two decades of her life living and working in the seaside town of Duxbury, Massachusetts, will be the focus of an exhibition planned for February 5 - April 25, 1993, at the Art Complex Museum, located in Duxbury.

This will be the first exhibition of paintings by Elisabeth Weber-Fulop since her death in 1966. A portraitist and painter of breathtakingly realistic interiors, landscapes and still lifes, Weber-Fulop's versatility will be apparent in the selection of paintings from the museum collection as well as several works on loan from local collectors. Art Complex Museum Collections Researcher, Nancy Whipple Grinnell, who curated the exhibition, became fascinated with Weber-Fulop upon studying her works in the museum collection. As a student of American painting, interested in women artists in particular, she recognized the ways that Weber-Fulop linked Duxbury and a broader, international art scene.

Weber-Fulop was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1883, but her adopted city was Vienna, Austria. She studied in Vienna and Paris, receiving a fine academic training. After a successful European career, exhibiting in Paris, Budapest, Milan and Zurich, Weber-Fulop arranged to visit the United States in 1921, at the suggestion of Albert Boyden of the American Reparations Committee. Her only contact, the journalist Nellie Bly, had died immediately after her arrival and Weber-Fulop found herself alone in New York City.

As the story was told, Weber-Fulop passed by a gallery on Fifth Avenue and in the window saw a portrait she had painted of her niece, which had been sold to an American. The German-speaking gallery owner was immediately captivated by the artist and launched her on a successful American career, which soon included exhibitions at New York's Hanfstaengl Gallery and the National Academy of Design. Obtaining U.S. citizenship in 1929, Weber-Fulop established a studio in New York City, but always returned to Vienna in the summers, where she and her husband Emil, former architect of the city of Vienna, maintained their beloved home.

(more)

The
Art
Complex
Museum

For
Further
Information

Contact:

Bonnie

Jernigan

(617) 934-6634

Weber-Fulop's spreading reputation as a painter of portraits so life-like they were called "speaking likenesses," and of meticulous depictions of interiors such as Thomas Edison's laboratory at Menlo Park and the Armor Room at the Metropolitan Museum, produced an ever-widening circle of clients and friends. After successive visits to such friends in Duxbury, in 1946, the Weber-Fulops , purchased the historic King Caesar House there, a Federal-style house built in 1808 by shipbuilding magnate Ezra Weston, Jr, and currently operated as a house museum open to the public.

Here she established a new studio and maintained her rigorous painting schedule, turning out commissioned portraits as well as more intimate works, and exhibiting at the Vose Galleries in Boston, as well as the Guild of Boston artists.

Many of the friends she made in the area still recall her love of gardening, and say that at sunrise, Weber-Fulop could almost always be found either at her easel, or at work in the beautiful gardens at the King Caesar House. Her favorite flower was a morning glory, and so it is fitting that a striking, but simple Weber-Fulop painting of a blue morning glory should be a highlight of the Art Complex Museum exhibit.

The Art Complex Museum, located off Route 3A at 189 Alden Street, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 1-4 pm. Admission is free.